

Amendments to the Claims:

- 1    1. (currently amended) A freestanding candle, in an operable position having a wick  
2    supported by a fuel body and extending upwardly from a top surface of the fuel body, the  
3    candle comprising:  
4         (a) a flame-resistant sheet joined to the bottom surface of the fuel body in proximity  
5         to a lower end of the wick and extending outwardly at least substantially one inch  
6         from the longitudinal axis of the wick; and  
7         (b) an upright wick support attached to the sheet and holding the lower end of the  
8         wick, the attached support forming a liquid fuel flow barrier separating the lower end  
9         of the wick from the fuel body  
10      wherein the candle is not contained within a container whereby the sheet prevents the leakage  
11      of melted candle wax through the bottom of the candle onto a candle support surface.
- 1    2. (cancelled)
- 1    3. (previously presented) The candle of claim 1, wherein the wick support is sealingly  
2    bonded to the sheet.
- 1    4. (original) The candle of claim 3, wherein the sheet has an adhesive backing that bonds to  
2    the wick support and the bottom surface of the fuel body.
- 1    5. (previously presented) The candle of claim 1, wherein the flow barrier is a sealant disposed  
2    at least across an opening to a bore extending through the wick support.
- 1    6. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the wick support is formed *in situ* unitarily with  
2    the wick.

1    7. (original) The candle of claim 6, wherein the wick support is a solid, flame-resistant agent  
2    disposed on a surface of the lower end of the wick.

1    8. (original) The candle of claim 6, wherein the wick support is a solid, flame-resistant agent  
2    impregnating the lower end of the wick.

1    9. (original) The candle of claim 7 or 8, wherein the wick support is bonded to the sheet by  
2    the flame-resistant agent.

1    10. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the wick support is a block of solid, flame-  
2    resistant material.

1    11. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the wick support extends above the sheet an  
2    amount sufficient to prevent a candle fire.

1    12. (original) The candle of claim 11, wherein the amount sufficient to prevent a candle fire  
2    is at least about one-half inch.

1    13. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet extends substantially to an outer  
2    peripheral surface of the fuel body.

1    14. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet has a peripheral rim having a  
2    thickness greater than the sheet.

1    15. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet has a flange at an outer boundary.

1    16. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet is imbedded within the fuel body.

1    17. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet is adhered to the bottom surface of the  
2    fuel body.

- 1 18. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet is corrugated.
- 1 19. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the sheet is dome-shaped.
- 1 20. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the fuel body has multiple wicks.
- 1 21. (original) The candle of claim 20, wherein each flame-resistant sheet in proximity to each  
2 wick extends at least one inch from the longitudinal axis of each wick.
- 1 22. (original) The candle of claim 1, wherein the wick support is crimped.
- 1 23. (canceled)
- 1 24. (currently amended) A fire hazard reducing improvement to a freestanding candle which  
2 is unsupported in a container, the candle having a width of at least two inches and a wick  
3 supported by a fuel body, the wick, in an operable position of the candle, extending along a  
4 longitudinal axis through the fuel body, from near a lower end surface of the fuel body to a  
5 top surface of the fuel body from which the wick extends, wherein the improvement  
6 comprises:  
7       a flame-resistant sheet bonded to the lower surface of the fuel body and extending  
8       outwardly from said longitudinal axis at least substantially one inch from the  
9       longitudinal axis of the wick for preventing molten fuel body from flowing through  
10      the bottom of the candle.
- 1 25. (new) A method for more safely burning a freestanding candle fuel body that is not  
2 supported in a surrounding container, the method comprising:

- 3           (a) bonding a flame-resistant sheet to the bottom surface of the fuel body in proximity  
4           to a lower end of the wick and extending outwardly at least substantially one inch from  
5           the longitudinal axis of the wick; and  
6           (b) burning the fuel body on a support surface which does not have a container  
7           surrounding the fuel body.

b1

